

REMARKS

Amended paragraph [0047] is presented to correct a typographical error in the specification, namely that the phrase “commonly in the range of 400-900 mg²/gm” should actually read “commonly in the range of 400-900 m²/gm”. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 49-56, 71, 72, and 74-76 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1 and 4-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,391,090. Claims 49-53, 55, 56, 71, 72, and 74-76 are canceled without prejudice. Thus, the issue of double patenting is moot with respect to those claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in a related continuing application.

Claim 54 is amended into independent form. The Claim is patentable because the element of a body of decontaminant “comprising about 70% by volume of an electropositive metal component, about 15% by volume of a late transition metal component and about 15% of a high silica zeolite component” is not taught by any of Claims 1 and 4-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,391,090. It is noted that amended Claim 54 is of similar form to allowable Claims 57, 73, and 77. Allowance of Claim 54 is respectfully requested.

Claims 57, 58, 60, 62, 63, 67, 70, 73, 77, 78, 80, 82, 83, 87, and 90 are amended into independent form, including the recitals of the claims from whence they depended originally. Claim 81 is amended to depend from Claim 80. As well, Claims 58 and 78 are amended to correct the typographical error pointed out by the Examiner. With these amendments, Claims 57-70, 73, and 77-90 are in allowable form, consistent with item 4 of the final Office Action. Their allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By  _____

Charlton Shen

Registration No. 54,442

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated:

31 May 2005